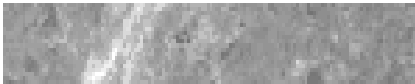




# HOUSING NEWS

...Keeping housing issues in the forefront...

## Funding For Housing



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The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the funding for Mainstream 811 projects in November and Continuum of Care projects in December bringing a total of 11.6 million dollars into Missouri for affordable housing for those experiencing homelessness and with disabilities. The three 811 projects funded are in Joplin, Springfield and St.

Louis. Seventeen new projects were funded under the various Continuums of Care around the state: Kansas City, Independence, Joplin, Springfield, City of St. Louis and State of Missouri/Rural. All of the Continuums including Columbia and the County of St. Louis also received funding for renewal projects bringing the total amount of money to over 24.6 million dollars.

The three 811 projects will produce 39 new permanent housing units. Ozark Center in Joplin intends to build a 15 unit complex to assist those with serious mental illness to live more independently and successfully in their community. A significant component of this project involves education, skills training and employment.

Burrell, Inc. plans to build 14 one bedroom units of permanent housing for persons with chronic mental illness, providing a supportive environment for individuals to live more independently than they may have experienced.

The St. Louis Office for MRDD Resources will be constructing 10 units to serve persons with mental retardation

and/or other developmental disabilities and to provide them the services necessary to further their ability to live independently.

The Department of Mental Health is pleased to have received three new Shelter Plus Care grants to provide permanent rental assistance in Kansas City, Independence and Springfield for a total of \$1,379,640 over the next five years. These programs will start leasing up by summer of 2004.

Look for future articles on these programs as they develop.

## Conference Announced

The Missouri Association for Social Welfare has scheduled the Missouri Congress To End Homelessness Conference for April 29-30, 2004 at Ramada Inn, Jefferson City, Missouri. This is the 3rd Congress and will feature national and state speakers, including Donald Whitehead, Executive Director of the National Coal-

ition for the Homeless. Workshops include: Domestic Violence, Homeless Youth, Continuum of Care Strategies, School & Homeless Children, and Integrating Information Systems.

For information and registration see [www.MASW.org](http://www.MASW.org) for details.





## Permanent Housing Projects in Rural Missouri

There will be five new permanent housing projects in rural Missouri, several starting this year. Family Counseling Center in Southeast Missouri, Salvation Army in Central Missouri, North East Community Action Corporation in Northeast Missouri and Community Caring Council in Southeast Missouri will all be providing permanent rental assistance for scattered site units. This means that the units will not all be at the same address. This rental assistance is for families as well as single individuals. The funding is initially for three years with

yearly renewals most likely after that time period.

Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation (DAEOC), which serves the six county region commonly known as the Bootheel, received funding to rehab a vacant hotel in Kennett in which 9 units of permanent housing will be provided along with an additional 9 units of transitional housing for which they also received HUD funding.

The Salvation Army also received additional funding to provide transitional housing by

providing rental assistance on 7 scattered site units and 15 beds in their current facility.

The permanent housing projects can only serve those who are experiencing homelessness and have been diagnosed with a disability such as chronic substance abuse, serious mental illness, developmental disabilities, AIDS and/or physical disabilities. Since on any given day in Missouri it is estimated that over 26,000 people experience homelessness, it is easy to see why these projects are so important.

## Kansas City Housing Office Moves

The staff of the Kansas City Housing Office found themselves packing to move to a new home just before the holidays last year. With the opening of the new Western Missouri Mental Health Center and the expansion of the lease of the Felix Building to Truman Behavioral Health, the Housing Team and several other DMH departments had to relocate. Our new home at the New Prospects Building has proved to be very beneficial.

Our new building provides easy access for consumers, case managers and other

agency representatives and providers. We are located just north of I-70 at the Prospect exit. Parking is no longer a problem now that we are away from the Truman Hospital Complex. The New Prospects building has ample meeting space for small and large group meetings. Our housing office has private meeting space which is great for interviewing clients. Everyone that comes in the building enjoys the large windows that flood the offices with plenty of natural light and we are just two blocks from Gates BBQ!

Just prior to our move to the New Prospect Building, Mark Polina an eight year veteran with the Housing Team, accepted a position with the federal government. With the recent cuts and belt tightening in the DMH budget, Mark's position has not been filled. Pat Brown is coordinating all of the duties of the Kansas City office. He is very excited about the two new HUD Shelter Plus Care grants that DMH was recently awarded. Funding for these grants is expected to be in place this spring.

To contact the Kansas City Housing Office, please call Pat Brown at (816) 482-5765, (816) 482-5774 fax, [pat.brown@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:pat.brown@dmh.mo.gov). His mailing address is Pat Brown, New Prospects Building, 2600 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City,



# Blogging The Slog

## ...like a Missouri Dog on a Homeward Jog in a Boonslick Fog

It's been a long but necessary and interesting slog through the policies and agreements necessary for the operation of our Homeless Missourians Information System.. and so far so good

[<http://www.masw.org/HMIS/forms/index.html>]. We began by assembling a Steering Committee [[http://www.masw.org/HMIS/steering\\_comm.html](http://www.masw.org/HMIS/steering_comm.html)] that was as representative as possible of the various homelessness issues, geographies and populations in Missouri. The Steering Committee studied the way other information systems serving homeless people developed and carefully considered our options and the various courses of action open to us. The members of the committee listened to each other and looked for ways that would meet all our needs. Naturally there were trade-offs. Generally we were willing to forego some of the power that comes from sharing information in return for added levels of confidentiality and security.

To best understand how we have reached this point it's necessary to look at our roots. MASW itself came out of the Progressive Movement that began at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the idea that the *scientific* method can help

solve *democracy's* social problems. Central to the scientific method is the gathering of all pertinent information about a problem in order to understand and thereby possibly affect a solution.

The need for good solid information on homelessness is the reason MASW became interested in the issue in the 1980s. Central to democracy is an open, transparent, accessible process with checks and balances to prevent possible abuses of power. So when the Steering Committee met at the MASW Center for Social Justice in Jefferson City, they brought their concerns for homeless people to an environment that values evidence, democracy and human rights.

**Sicka HIPAA?... Who's a Patriot?..** Commanding our attention at this time were national, state and local discussions concerning the provisions of the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act* (HIPAA) which brought added attention to the confidentiality and security of information and also of the *Patriot's Act* which has raised concerns over autocratic abuse of power. We believe HIPAA is clear that only clients own their information and service providers are stewards whose purpose is to preserve and pro-

tect the information while using it in a beneficial way. The Patriot's Act underscored the need for democratic process and the protection of individual rights.

On top of all of this is that the Steering Committee members themselves are each intensely committed to the best interests of the people enduring homelessness and 'due diligence' is the order of the day. We thank Liz Hagar-Mace and Rita McElhaney who have served as chairs and all of the other individuals who spent so much time on our behalf. The folks at Municipal Information Systems Incorporated (MISI), the non-profit that supplies the ROSIE software that we use, have been great at providing background materials and pointing out options we may have otherwise missed.

Next step for us individually is to get the shelters and services in our community to become user/members of HMIS (<http://www.masw.org/HMIS/faq.html>). Even if the individual agencies who are required by HUD to be online by October of this year have done so, the system itself is only as complete as its coverage—we need everyone. We had been working on this before HUD

required it. We've always believed that there are substantial benefits to the individual clients, shelters and to the State as a whole. HUD has helped us get started but it is very much our system. I'm proud that we have had the energy and commitment to make it so. We believe that better information will not only enable us to better serve those among us who are homeless today but will also help us to begin creating communities in which we will each have a home tomorrow.

--Tom Gould,  
MASW Western Coordinator



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*Karia Lee Basta, Housing Director, Editor*

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

<http://www.modmh.state.mo.us/homeinfo/housing/index.htm>

## Ending Homelessness in St. Charles Region

For the past two years, a group of people interested in applying for funding to assist with ending homelessness in the St. Charles region have been meeting in hopes of developing a continuum in that community that would qualify them to apply for HUD funding under the McKinney-Vento act. The group will soon experience the fruits of their labor by identifying their goals to HUD in response to the upcoming notice of funding availability (NOFA) for 2004.

The group has worked consistently to meet all the qualifying criteria set by HUD. Most

recently, the group received training for preparing Exhibit I of the application by Karia Basta, Director of Housing for the Department of Mental Health.

We anticipate great things from this group as they move forward to serve those in their community that are homeless.

### Additional Resources



[www.fairhousing.com](http://www.fairhousing.com)  
[www.fairhousingfirst.org](http://www.fairhousingfirst.org)  
[www.nationalfairhousing.org](http://www.nationalfairhousing.org)